(g) The Government of India had set up a National Advisory Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. Yash Pal, former Chairman, University Grants Commission to advise on the ways and means to reduce academic burden on school students. In the 50th meeting of the Central Advisory Board on Education (CABE) held on 2.3.94, State Governments expressed their broad agreement with the recommendations of the Yash Pal Committee. The consensus of such views was identified and the course of action to be adopted by the State Governments suggested to them.

[English]

SC/ST Person on Board of Directors of ITDC

790. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any SC/ST person was appointed on the Board of Directors of India Tourism Development Corporation Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The existing rules do not specifically provide any reservation in the matter of appointment of Directors on the Board of ITDC.

Development of National Highways in Maharashtra

791. SHRI RAJABHAU THAKRE : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received financial assistance from the World Bank and Asian Development Bank for developing National Highways in Maharashtra State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b) Four laning and strengthening of existing two lane road in Manor—Bassein Creek section (length 58 km.) of NH 8 in Maharashtra is included in Second National Highway Project under World Bank loan assistance. The estimated cost of the project is about Rs. 217 crore. No financial assistance has been received from Asian Development Bank for developing National Highways in Maharashtra.

[Translation]

Hotels for Middle Class

792. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are unable to construct hotels for middle class due to the non-availability of land;

(b) if so, the places for which the Government have decided to construct hotels for the middle class during the last two years; and

(c) the price at which the land was available at these places and the price at which the Government intended to purchase it?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) to (c) Construction of hotels is primarily a private sector activity. In order to encourage construction of such accommodation, the Government of India provides incentives like interest subsidy which is available to one, two and three star hotels on loans taken from specified financial institutions, reduced duty on import of project equipment/capital goods and raw materials etc. The Government also offers exemptions under Income Tax Act.

Petrol Pump

793. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHLE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Petrol Pumps set up in Madhya Pradesh and the cases pending for setting up them;

(b) whether there is any scheme to set up new Petrol Pumps in the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of Petrol Pumps allotted to the people belonging to Scheduled Castes/Tribes and backward class out of them;

(e) whether the system of reservation has been followed in the allotment of the above petrol pumps;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the time by which the sanction are likely to be accorded for setting up new Petrol Pumps?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) As on 1.4.1997, there were 1006 pertrol/diesel retail outlets in operation in Madhya Pradesh. Another 103 retail outlet dealerships already planned are pending for commissioning.

(b), (c) and (g) Opening of retail outlets in different parts of the country is a continuous process. Regular surveys are conducted by Oil Industry on its own and also at the instance of Government. Locations found feasible as per volume-distance norms are included in the prospective marketing plan. Accordingiy, more retail outlets will be opened in Madhya Pradesh through retail outlet marketing plan 1996-98. Selection of dealers will be made after the selection process is reactivated.

(d) As on 1.4.1997, there were 84 retail outlets pertaining to SC/ST category. Since there is no reservation for backward classes, information regarding retail outlets pertaining to them is not maintained.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

SCs/STs Employees in Ports

794. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether benefits of reservation are not being provided to the employees and officers belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes working at the different ports of the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that when the employees/ officers belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes working at Mumbai Port Trust call the attention of the Government in this regard then also no action is taken in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that SCs/STs Union of Mumbai Port Trust attracted the attention of the Government in this regard but no action has been taken till-date;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to provide justice to the SC/ST employees?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) Benefits or reservation are being provided as per rules to the employees and officers belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes working in all major ports of the country.

(b) No, Sir. Whenever such representations are received by the Government, they are duly examined and action taken.

(c) to (e) Representations received by the Government from the Mumbai Port Trust SC/ST & OBC Welfare Association regarding certain grievances of SC/ ST employees have been duly examined and Mumbai Port Trust has been advised to implement the relevant Government instructions in this regard.

[English]

Establishment of Navodaya Vidyalayas

795. SHRI HARIN PATHAK :
SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether very few Navodaya Vidyalayas have been opened in North Eastern Region;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the Navodaya Vidyalayas opened in the region till date; and

(d) the number of Navodaya Vidyalayas functioning in the country and the total number sanctioned so far in the Ninth Five Year Plan, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The State-wise break up of Navodaya Vidyalayas opened in North-East Region is as under:—

State	No. of District at the time of commencement of 8th plan period	No. of District where JNVs have been sanctioned	Uncovered Districts
Arunachal Pradesh	11	07	04
Assam	23	17	06
Meghalaya	06	06	—
Manipur	08	08	—
Mizoram	03	03	—
Nagaland	07	04	03
Tripura	03	03	—
Total	61	48	13